

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of transmitting information on a network, comprising:
sending information to a plurality of clients across said network, wherein each active client is allocated a corresponding initial amount of bandwidth for transfer of information ~~according to a priority assigned to said client~~ such that a first portion of bandwidth equal to x is allocated to active clients having a first priority and a second portion of bandwidth equal to y is allocated to active clients having a second priority that is lower than said first priority, wherein x is greater than y :
when a first active client is operating with a respective allocation and a portion of said first client's respective allocation is not used in a given time period, reducing said first client's respective allocation by the amount of said portion and redistributing said portion of bandwidth ~~to other~~ among members of a first set of active clients, each member of said [[other]] first set of active clients having used all of a respective allocation of bandwidth;
wherein said method seeks to utilize all portions of available bandwidth.
2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said portion of bandwidth will be redistributed among members of said first set such that each member having said first priority receives a first amount and each member having said second priority receives a second amount, wherein the proportion of said first amount to said second amount is the same as the proportion of x to y , according to a same system of priority as the initial allocation of bandwidth.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein an initial amount of bandwidth allocated to each active ~~[[user]] client~~ is recalculated each time a [[user]] client changes status from active to inactive or inactive to active or a user's client's priority changes.
4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising taking a small amount of bandwidth away from a ~~first group of users~~ second set of clients that are operating with a respective amount of bandwidth greater than a respective initial allocation and redistributing said small amount of bandwidth to ones of a ~~second group of users~~ third set of clients that are both operating with a respective allocation of bandwidth less than a respective initial allocation and are using all of said respective allocation.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said network is the Internet.
6. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein respective initial amounts of bandwidth are allocated to each client as a calculated percentage of total bandwidth calculated according to a respective priority and the number of active clients.
7. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 6, wherein x is a multiple of y, ~~each priority-three client receives an initial allocation of one part, each priority-two client receives an initial allocation of two parts, and each priority-one client receives an initial allocation of six parts.~~
8. (Currently amended) A server for transmitting information on a network, said server comprising:
an input device for receiving requests on said network from a plurality of active [[users]] clients;
an output device for providing information through said network to said plurality of active [[users]] clients;
a processor connected to said input device and to said output device to process requests and provide information; and
an allocation program executed by said processor, said allocation program being connected to provide allocations of bandwidth for sending information successively to ones of said plurality of active [[users]] clients, said allocation program comprising:
first instructions for allocating a first portion of bandwidth equal to x to ones of said active [[users]] clients having a first priority and for allocating a second portion of bandwidth equal to y to ones of said active [[users]] clients having a second priority that is lower than said first priority, wherein x is greater than y; and
second instructions for determining a first amount of bandwidth of a first [[user's]] client's allocation that has not been used, reducing said first [[user's]] client's allocation by said first amount, and redistributing said first amount of bandwidth to other among members of a first set of active clients, each member of said [[other]] first set of active clients having used all of a respective allocation of bandwidth.
9. (Currently amended) The server of Claim 8, wherein said second instructions redistribute said first amount of bandwidth among members of said first set such that each member having said first priority receives a first amount and each member having said second priority receives a second amount, wherein the proportion of said first amount to said second amount is the same as the proportion of x to y, according to a same system of priority as said first instructions.

10. (Currently amended) The server of Claim 8, wherein said first instruction are performed each time one of the following events occurs: a new [[user]] client requires an allocation, an existing [[user]] client no longer requires an allocation, or a user's client's priority is changed.

11. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 8, further comprising third instructions for taking a respective amount of bandwidth away from a ~~first group of users~~ second set of clients, each of said ~~first group of users~~ second set of clients operating with an amount of bandwidth greater than allocated in said first instructions and redistributing said respective amount of bandwidth to a ~~second group of users~~ third set of clients, each of said ~~second group of users~~ third set of clients both operating with a respective allocation of bandwidth less than a respective initial allocation and using all of said respective allocation.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 8, where said network is the Internet.

13. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 8, wherein respective initial amounts of bandwidth are allocated to each client as a ~~calculated~~ percentage of total bandwidth calculated according to a respective priority and the number of active clients.

14. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein x is a multiple of y, ~~each priority three client receives an initial allocation of one part, each priority two client receives an initial allocation of two parts, and each priority one client receives an initial allocation of six parts.~~

15. (Currently amended) A computer program product on a computer readable medium, said computer program product comprising:

transmitting information to a group of active clients in response to requests received at a website;

first instructions for allocating a first percentage of bandwidth equal to x to ones of said active [[users]] clients having a first priority and for allocating a second percentage of bandwidth equal to y to ones of said active [[users]] clients having a second priority that is lower than said first priority, wherein x is greater than y;

second instructions for determining a first amount of bandwidth of a first user's client's allocation that has not been used, reducing said first user's client's allocation by said first amount, and distributing said first amount of bandwidth ~~to other~~ among members of a first set of active clients, each member of said [[other]] first set of active clients having used all of a respective allocation of bandwidth.

16. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein said second instructions redistribute said first amount of bandwidth among members of said first set such that each member having said first priority receives a first amount and each member having said second priority receives a second amount, wherein the proportion of said first amount to said second amount is the same as the proportion of x to y , according to a same system of priority as in said first instructions.
17. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein said first instruction are performed each time one of the following events occurs: a new [[user]] client requires an allocation, an existing [[user]] client no longer requires an allocation, or a user's client's priority is changed.
18. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product of Claim 15, further comprising third instructions for taking a respective amount of bandwidth away from a ~~first group of users~~ second set of clients, each of said ~~first group of users~~ second set of clients operating with an amount of bandwidth greater than allocated in said first instructions and distributing said respective amount of bandwidth to a ~~second group of users~~ third set of clients, each of said ~~second group of users~~ third set of clients operating with an amount of bandwidth less than allocated in said first instructions.
19. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product of Claim 15, where said network is the Internet.
20. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product of Claim 15, wherein said first instructions allocate respective initial amounts of bandwidth to each client as a calculated percentage of total bandwidth calculated according to a respective priority and the number of active clients.
21. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product of Claim 20, wherein x is a multiple of y , each priority three client receives an initial allocation of one part, each priority two client receives an initial allocation of two parts, and each priority one client receives an initial allocation of six parts.